

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Human Services Committee** was held on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 in Room 200 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, WI.

Present: Vice-Chair Evans, Supervisor Brusky, Supervisor De Wane
Excused: Chair Hoyer, Supervisor Linssen
Also Present: Supervisor Borchardt, Supervisor Tran, Supervisor Lefebvre, Human Services Youth and Families Manager Kevin Brennan, Health and Human Services Director Erik Pritzl, Community Services Administrator Jenny Hoffman, Corp Counsel Dave Hemery, Deputy Executive Jeff Flynt and other interested parties.

I. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Evans at 6:00 pm.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to approve. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of May 22, 2019.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to approve. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public. None.

1. Review Minutes of:

- a. Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County (February 28, 2019).
- b. Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County – Executive/Finance Committee (June 28, 2018).
- c. Board of Health (March 19, 2019).
- d. Children With Disabilities Education Board (May 7, 2019).

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to suspend the rules and take Items 1 a, b, c & d together. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to receive and place on file Items 1 a, b, c & d. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Communications

- 2. Communication from Supervisor Lefebvre: To look into the foster program in regards to safety for all involved. *Referred from June County Board***

Supervisor Lefebvre noted that she made this generic because she wanted to ignite the discussion and to see what they can do to make sure they are following the correct procedures and things of that nature. Her main goal was to start a discussion on this topic. She wanted to know what was already in place for this type of happening.

Supervisor De Wane commented that he thought what Lefebvre was doing was a good thing in general but that for this particular topic he believed staff to be already on this. Everyone is well aware of what happened and he didn't think anything like this would ever happen again because of that. He appreciated that this was brought forward because it is important and discussion is good but he believed it to be taken care of already.

Lefebvre wanted to know what was already in place for this type of happening.

De Wane noted that although he thought putting a communication in was good for discussion purposes and such but a lot of times what is best and what he likes to do is talk to staff directly. That way, all the information he wants is obtained and a communication doesn't have to be put in.

Supervisor Brusky wanted to know from Human Services if there was a policy in place for this type of situation.

Health and Human Services Director Erik Pritzl spoke to what they have in place at the moment. What they have in place is that diaper bags are not to be transferred to foster homes. Human Services Youth and Families Manager Kevin Brennan, who is in charge of that area, has communicated to staff that if there are diaper bags then they are not to bring those to the foster/receiving homes. If they are to bring items such as diapers then they are not to transfer those items in a bag. If there are any personal belongings that children need, because they want them to be comfortable in their placements, then those should be looked at by law enforcement as they are often responding to them in these situations anyways. They have asked other Counties' and the State about policies and nobody really has one that calls for searches or anything like that. The Department of Children and Families has also responded to this and they indicated that it is really up to Counties to sort this out at the moment. Pritzl noted that they feel comfortable about the direction they have taken on this.

Brusky wished to know if this was a new policy.

Brennan talked about this being a new policy in response to some of the recent concerns brought on. Within 2 weeks of the incident, they had a policy. He said you never really want to create a policy out of a knee-jerk reaction but there was a lot of thought put into this one. That said, no other County in the State had a policy regarding diaper bags, formula or transportation of any of those things. They were unable to find any existing policies that they could tweak or anything of that nature so they immediately sought input from their receiving homes about assistance in creating a policy as they are their primary stakeholder. They created this policy with their receiving homes within 2 weeks of the incident and staff were all trained on the new policy which includes rules such as, a minimal amount of children's items, no diaper bags, or formula upon initial placement into the foster home. Within a couple days, the social worker can attribute as many items as necessary for the child. Brown County is the first County in the State to have a policy on this and other Counties are contacting them regarding this policy and looking to them as leaders.

Brusky assumed that meant that if they wanted to retrieve something from the diaper bag then they would work in cooperation with police to do so.

Brennan noted that Law Enforcement aren't involved with every single placement, they are usually involved with emergency placements after hours. They are trained to pat down things and look for areas of concern.

Evans figured they would have had a policy already in place. He wanted to know if there was any sort of inventory taken when a child was taken in to foster care. If someone gets arrested there is an inventory taken on everything they have.

Brennan said that they don't typically take inventory on belongings that children have coming into foster care. At the Brown County Shelter Care facility they do so because they are admitted to the facility and per the licensing regulations they are required to inventory belongings, such as the amount of clothes for the week etc. This is really how they catch contraband.

Evans was concerned with someone claiming something like having cash stashed in a diaper bag as a hiding place or something to that effect. This is being pragmatic really because it raises a question as to what would be done if someone claimed that and then their money wasn't there. Someone can claim this and he supports taking the side of the social worker but he wonders about instances such as this as you could come up with all sorts of hypotheticals regarding this.

Pritzl thought this would be one reason why they try to limit what they're transferring. In the County's that he has worked in, they have never inventoried possessions. This is not to say this is a bad idea, it is just not a common practice. In the instances that were being talked about, they are talking about people taking custody of the person and their possessions in Law Enforcement. In their case, people are voluntarily giving them things to transfer so there could be some nuances to that too.

Evans stated that there has to be some type of protection for the employees.

Corp. Counsel Hemery commented on general policy. He said that the reason the State doesn't have a general policy regarding inspecting items before providing them to a foster parent is because attorneys and insurance companies advise against having such a policy. Once you have a policy, you assume liability. If you don't have a policy, you are not liable. In Brown County, if it was the case for the main concern to be to 100% protect from liability then it wouldn't have a policy either. Instead, they took into consideration foster parents, Human Services developed a policy to just not transport diaper bags. People can still claim that they stored money in a bag and so forth, but in that case they have to do more than prove that they had money and it is missing but they have to prove that it was taken by the County and he is confident to prove that it wasn't taken because a County employee would not.

Evans highlighted that he anticipated and hoped that foster families would have all the necessary equipment for the child.

Brennan said that on an emergency basis the County has made a commitment to supply the diaper bags and formula themselves.

Evans made sure that he meant that the County is going to have a bag with all the essential items in it.

Brennan replied that since this has come up, they have had a nonprofit step up and buy diaper bags and formula for them.

Evans wondered who.

Brennan said it was called Foster the Village.

Lefebvre reiterated that she brought this up because she thought it was important for everyone to be aware of the new policies that they had for this and what they had moving forward. She wanted everyone to know what was going on.

**Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to receive and place on file.
Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **Communication from Supervisor Ballard re: For the Brown County Board of Health to cease sharing demographic and personal information of residents with drug companies and other third parties for**

the purpose of sending out notifications of missed vaccinations. Instead, this essential educational program should be operated in-house and a budget adjustment of \$2,500 would be needed. Doing this in-house is consistent with other health departments in the state; allows the program to continue at a low cost; and respects the privacy rights of the citizenry. *Held for 30 days.*

Evans noted that there was a closed session on this later in the meeting and they would hold this item until that closed session.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Communication from Supervisors Hoyer and Borchardt re: Draft a resolution acknowledging that September is National Suicide Prevention month. *Motion at April meeting: To have Chair Hoyer work with Corp Counsel to bring back a resolution to be voted on; May Motion: Hold for 30 days.*

Supervisor Borchardt spoke on this and noted she thought this was something that needed to be out there. It could be through events educating the public on the rates of suicide being high. Specifically speaking it is high in adults with PTSD, those suffering from mental health issues, loneliness, teens, especially those in the LGBTQ community. She wanted to make sure everyone was aware that the County is invested in them.

De Wane was fully in support of this.

Borchardt was actually asked to go hear a speaker on the date of this meeting which was part of the Point Initiative. The guest speaker she heard was an individual by the name of Paul Born and she brought an extra copy of his book entitled *Deepening Community: Finding Joy Together in Chaotic Times*. A copy of this book is located in the County Board office for anyone who would like to access it. The concept of the talk she attended was social connectedness.

Evans reminded everyone of agenda item 7 as a resolution regarding this matter.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Administration Report

5. CIP Update. *Held for 30 days.*

Hemery asked that this one be held so he could contact the Director of Administration.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to hold until the next Human Services Committee meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Wind Turbine Update

6. Receive new information – Standing Item.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolutions & Ordinances

7. Resolution Proclaiming September as Suicide Prevention + Action Month.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to approve. Roll Call Vote Taken: Ayes: Evans, De Wane, Brusky MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Health & Human Services Department

8. **Budget Adjustment Request (19-054): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

**Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to approve. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

9. **Executive Director's Report.**

Evans noted that this was provided in the agenda packet so if anyone wanted to discuss that they could do so.

Pritzl stated that this was regarding the 1st item on the 1st page in the attachments of the agenda packet, specifically the "Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth." They have been talking about the State corrections changes to children and youth and in here he noted that there was some legislation that would address some timelines and other things and he said that those have passed. They still are on track if they want to submit a proposal to the State for this type of facility before July 1st. From July 1st to October 1st the grants committee works with the County to submit and refine the proposal and they get those months to work through some of the questions they may have. The County may not have the full proposal at the time it is submitted and they have been working with an architect to give them some ideas of square footage and space needs and things of that nature. They are looking at a combined Secure Residential Care Center as well as a Secure Detention Facility. Which would have 24 and 32 beds respectively. This is what they are looking towards submitting for consideration and the counties that are left that are serious about submitting are Milwaukee, Racine, Dane and Brown. He just wanted to keep the committee up to speed on this topic. They are looking at around a \$40 million facility with 95% covered by the State.

Evans asked who the Organizational Effectiveness team from Child Protective Services was in the 2nd item of the agenda packet.

Pritzl said they are internal people working on this, staff, supervisors, Kevin Brennan, and himself.

Evans asked if there was issues with professionalism in communication and team building.

Pritzl noted that these were things that the team brought up so they were more organic. Talking about desired future state, the gaps you need to fill to get there, all things that staff identified.

Evans reiterated that CPS is a hard field to work in and the stress that it puts everyone under. He could understand some occasional issues within the department. He wondered if a report would be done and shared or if this was kept internally.

Pritzl emphasized that what they always talk about after the discussions is key messages and communications. They will talk about what messages they want to bring up and who should get them. This is something they will be working on.

Evans said something such as this he would imagine has been worked on with Corp Counsel, specifically something such as Organizational Effectiveness should be made public as it is a public entity. A lot of times when you are working within an organization and dealing with people and personalities he wouldn't have a problem and would be very supportive with this being an internal document where only staff can see it. Sometimes this is better for everybody especially if there is nothing positive to come out of it.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Finance Report for Community Treatment Center and Community Services.

Evans stated that this was in the agenda packet for reference purposes as well and it seems on track.

**Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to receive and place on file.
Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

11. Statistical Reports.

- a. **Monthly CTC Data.**
 - i. Bay Haven Crisis Diversion.
 - ii. Nicolet Psychiatric Center.
 - iii. Bayshore Village (Nursing Home)
 - iv. CTC Double Shifts.
- b. **Child Protection – Child Abuse/Neglect Report.**
- c. **Monthly Contract Update.**

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to suspend the rules and take Items 11 ai., aii., aiii., aiv., b & c together. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to receive and place on file Items 11 ai., aii., aiii., aiv., b & c. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Request for New Non-Continuous and Contract Providers and New Provider Contracts.

**Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to approve. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Evans stated that they would go into closed session at this time and after that they would approve the bills and that would be it.

13. Closed Session: Tevevox Solutions Use of County Residents Demographic and Personal Data vs. Other Options.

- a. **Open Session: Motion and Recorded Vote** pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.85(1), regarding going into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.85(1)(e), i.e., conducting specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, in particular, to discuss the confidential and proprietary ways Televox Solutions uses demographic and personal data of County residents, and to determine if using another service provider, or providing notification services ourselves, would be more beneficial to the County.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to enter into closed session. Roll Call Vote Taken: Ayes: Evans, De Wane, Brusky MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. **Convene into Closed Session:** Pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.85(1)(e), the governmental body shall convene into closed session for purposes of conducting specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, in particular, to discuss the confidential and proprietary ways Televox Solutions uses demographic and personal data of County residents, and to determine if using another service provider, or providing notification services ourselves, would be more beneficial to the County.
- c. **Reconvene into Open Session:** The governmental body shall reconvene into open session for possible voting and/or other action regarding the confidential and proprietary ways

Televox Solutions uses demographic and personal data of County residents, and to determine if using another service provider, or providing notification services ourselves, would be more beneficial to the County.

No action taken.

14. Closed Session: Lawsuit Filed in Violation of Statute by Foster Parents and their Counsel against the County and Related Information.

- a. Open Session: Motion and Recorded Vote pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.85(1), regarding going into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.85(1)(g), i.e., conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, in particular, to discuss the lawsuit filed in Violation of Statute by Foster Parents and their Counsel against the County and related information.
- b. Convene into Closed Session: Pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.85(1)(g), the governmental body shall convene into closed session for purposes of conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, in particular, to discuss the lawsuit filed in Violation of Statute by Foster Parents and their Counsel against the County and related information.
- c. Reconvene into Open Session: The governmental body shall reconvene into open session for possible voting and/or other action regarding conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, in particular, to discuss the lawsuit filed in Violation of Statute by Foster Parents and their Counsel against the County and related information.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to return to open session. Roll Call Vote Taken: Ayes: Evans, De Wane, Brusky **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

No action taken.

Aging & Disability Resource Center – No items.
Veterans Services – No items.

Other

15. Audit of bills.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to acknowledge receipt of the bills. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

16. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.

17. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to adjourn at 7pm. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Cayden Lasecki
Administrative Assistant